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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kevin McCARTHY et al

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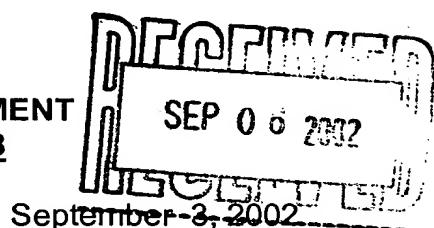
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Group: 2681
Examiner: To Be Assigned

Technology Center 2600

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98**

Assistant Commissioner
of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

Each of the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A form is in the English language.

United States Patents 6,094,587, 4,868,561, 5,381,138, British Patent 2 305 073 A, EP 0 611 070 A2 and WO's 98/17045 and 00/54530 are cited in the International Search Report. U.S. Patent 5,479,476 was discussed in the

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specification. The remaining U.S. Patents and WO 92/03891 are being cited as additional art.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1030.40544X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments
DES:dlh